

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 8-12, 19-24, 30-33, 38-41, 47-50, and 55-57 are pending in the present application with Claims 9-11, 22, 31, 39, 48, and 56 withdrawn from consideration.¹ Claims 1, 12, 24, 33, 41, and 50 are amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 8, 12, 19, 21, 23, 24, 30, 32, 33, 38, 40, 41, 47, 49, 50, 55, and 57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Ikegame (Japanese Patent No. JP10-116431).

In view of this rejection, independent Claims 1, 12, 24, 33, 41, and 50 have been amended to more clearly recite that a magnet has at least three poles in a single side surface of the magnet. The claim amendments find support in Figure 14 and its corresponding definition in the specification. No new matter has been added.

Briefly recapitulating, amended Claim 1 is directed to an objective lens drive apparatus that includes a magnetic circuit and a coil unit. The magnetic circuit includes a magnet having at least three poles in a single side surface of the magnet. Independent Claims 12, 24, 33, 41, and 50 have been amended similar to independent Claim 1.

In a non-limiting example, Figure 14 shows that the magnet 5 has three poles N, S, and N in a single side surface of the magnet 5.

Turning to the applied art, Ikegame shows in Figures 11-13 an objective lens driving device having magnets 8 and 9 and coils 3 positioned next to the magnets 8 and 9. The outstanding Office Action takes the position that each of the magnets 8 and 9 has four poles as shown in Figures 11-13.

¹ It is noted that Claim 20 is not withdrawn from consideration as listed by the outstanding Office Action.

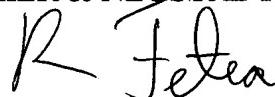
However, Ikegame does not teach or suggest that any of the magnets 8 and 9 has at least three poles in a single side surface of the magnet, as required by amended Claims 1, 12, 24, 33, 41, and 50. In other words, Ikegame shows only a conventional magnet that has one pole in a single side surface.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 12, 24, 33, 41, and 50 and each of the claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over Ikegame.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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